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COTTONWOOD-WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT (CHAVES AND EDDY COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO) FOR RUN-OFF AND WATER FLOW RETARDATION AND SOIL EROSION PREVENTION AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 540 OF H.R. 6, 99TH CONGRESS, AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The project for Cottonwood-Walnut Creek Watershed, New Mexico, shall be constructed substantially in accordance with the following supplement to the report approved by resolution, adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives, on June 9, 1976, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate, on June 13, 1976.

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

APR 25 1984

Honorable James J. Howard
Chairman, Committee on Public Works
and Transportation
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to request a supplement to the committee approval to proceed with the installation of the Cottonwood-Walnut Creek Watershed project, New Mexico.

The 228,326-acre Cottonwood-Walnut Creek Watershed project (Public Law 83-566) located in Chaves and Eddy Counties, New Mexico, was approved for construction by resolutions adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives on June 9, 1976, and by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on June 15, 1976. This authorization was limited by the following conditions:

1. Appropriations for the project are limited to $8,793,000 (1975 prices), the estimated Federal (Public Law 83-566) costs shown in the watershed plan, plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuation in the cost of construction as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the type of construction involved; and

2. The purposes served by the project shall be those set forth in the watershed plan submitted for the project and the scope of the project purposes and of the project shall be substantially as set forth in such plan.

The original project plan included ten floodwater detention reservoirs, one multiple-purpose recreation and flood protection reservoir, five diversions, and 9.7 miles of channel improvement for flood protection.

Because of the significant increase in costs, the sponsors have agreed to a revised proposal which includes reservoir site Nos. 6, 8, and 19 and minimal channel work. The Federal cost of the revised plan is $24,630,000. This proposal will accomplish the basic objectives of the original plan. The project purpose has not been altered. The revised proposal has a benefit-cost ratio of 0.6 to 1.0.

Construction is underway on site No. 6. Detail designs are complete for site No. 8 and it can be constructed with the completion of site No. 6. Site No. 19, the multiple-purpose recreation reservoir, continues in design. Landrights have been cleared by local sponsors on structural site No. 6, nearly all on structural site No. 8, and a large portion has been purchased for recreational site No. 19.

The Federal Government and sponsors have made significant commitments to date. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has spent about $3,500,000. The sponsors have spent about $1,100,000.

The following factors contributed to the cost increases.

1. Increased foundation excavation and earthfill.
2. Addition of embankment drains.
3. Change in type of concrete emergency spillway.
4. Addition of rock riprap.
5. Change in location of site.
6. Increased rock excavation.

These changes were required to meet new and improved structural design criteria for earthen dams, dam safety requirements, and changing site conditions. Engineering criteria to overcome the unique foundation problems caused by creating permanent lakes on the naturally dry soils in the southwest contributed the largest cost increases. The knowledge gained on this project will greatly increase the accuracy of cost estimates in future projects of the southwest.

The SCS feels the Federal Government has an obligation to these sponsors and recommends that we continue working with them. We request your committee's concurrence in our decision to proceed.

For additional information on this project refer to the enclosed fact sheet.

Sincerely,

PETER C. MYERS
Chief

Enclosures

COTTONWOOD-WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED, NEW MEXICO

The Cottonwood-Walnut Creek Watershed consists of 228,326 acres in Chaves and Eddy Counties, New Mexico. It is immediately north and northwest of Artesia, New Mexico.

The project plan will provide for the installation of conservation land treatment practices, protection from floods for agricultural and urban lands, improve the utilization of existing water supplies, and provide a recreational development on Cottonwood Creek with public access.

The total installation cost of this project was estimated to be $12,055,000 in 1975, of which the local sponsors were expected to furnish $3,262,000 or 27 percent. The 1975 average annual benefits were estimated to be $767,900 and the average annual costs were $658,100. The benefit-cost ratio was 1.2 to 1.0.

Evaluation of Changing Needs

	PL-566 Fund Authorization Level - 1976	PL-566 Fund Authorization Level Adjusted to 1983 For Inflation Only	PL-566 Fund Authorization Level Needed to Complete Project Adjusted to 1983
	$8,793,000	$11,999,000	$40,586,000
Benefit Cost Ratio	1.2 to 1.0		.5 to 1.0
	Recommended Alternative to Total Project		
	$4,260,000	$6,816,000	$24,630,000
Benefit Cost Ratio	1.2 to 1.0		.6 to 1.0

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, That pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of Public Law 566, Eighty-third Congress, as amended by Public Law 1018, Eighty-fourth Congress, the project for watershed protection and flood prevention on Cottonwood-Walnut Creek, New Mexico, is hereby approved in accordance with the report of the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, dated November 18, 1975, and transmitted to Congress by the Office of Management and Budget on April 13, 1976, with the conditions that (1) the approval of appropriations for the project be limited to the estimated Federal cost of the project as shown in the work plan for such project, plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuation in the cost of construction as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the type of construction involved; and (2) the purposes served by the project shall be those set forth in the watershed work plan submitted for the project and the scope of the project purposes and of the project shall be substantially as set forth in such work plan.

Adopted: June 9, 1976

ATTEST: Robert E. Jones
Chairman